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Three more merchant Brigs are expected in daily ; one from New York, which left January last and will bring us a printing press,²⁵ the funds to pay for which was raised at this place by subscription.

It affords me but little satisfaction to write to you, as I wish to say so many things, and have room for so few. If I could only be with you I could tell you more in half an hour than I could write in a week. I shall write you again in the latter part of this summer, which I will send to the Islands and overland through Mexico. You will likely receive it as soon nearly as you do this.

With great respect, I remain

J. W. NESMITH.

LETTER FROM SIR GEORGE SIMPSON TO ARCHIBALD MCKINLAY,
1848, WITH INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

Editor of the Quarterly :

Some question has always remained as to the personal relation of Dr. John McLaughlin toward the accounts he opened so freely with the settlers in Oregon after their arrival in such destitute circumstances. The following letter written in June, 1848, by Gov. George Simpson, then in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's affairs in America, to Mr. Archibald McKinlay, the chief trader of the Company in charge of their store at Oregon City, throws some light upon that question. When writing this letter Gov. Simpson was at Norway House on Lake Winnipeg, where was usually held the annual council with his chief factors and traders and where he passed upon the reports from the various districts of the Company's territory. The letter was brought to Mr. McKinlay by the express leaving Norway House after the council and crossing the Rocky Mts. by the Athabasca Pass and arriving at Fort Vancouver usually in October.

²⁵ The press upon which the Spectator was printed February 5, 1846—the first newspaper west of the Rocky Mountains in American territory.

The disturbed state of the Oregon country to which Gov. Simpson refers was the Indian war then in progress and reported to him in the dispatches from Fort Vancouver in the spring of 1848; and the sketch of Oregon City by Paul Kane, the artist, would be of interest, if accessible now. An interesting inquiry arises as to the Mr. McMellan mentioned; could this have been the Mr. McMillan who was on the Columbia with David Thompson as early as 1809 and returned east with Gov. Simpson from Fort Vancouver in March, 1829, and seemingly then retired from the service as far as the Columbia District was concerned—an efficient and trusted officer?

This letter is one of many discovered at the home of a son-in-law of Mr. McKinlay, at Savonas, B. C.; the original is now in the Archives Department at Victoria.

T. C. ELLIOTT.

Walla Walla, December, 1912.

Norway House,
24th June, 1848.

Archibald McKinlay, Esqre.,
Willamette Falls.

My Dear Sir:—

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your valued communication of 16th March by which I am glad to find that all goes on with you at the Willamette Falls as well as might be expected from the disturbed state of the Country and the poverty and reckless habits of the surrounding population; the old outstanding debts come in very slowly and I fear there is very little prospect of their ever yielding a dividend of 50%.

It is very satisfactory to learn that so good an understanding exists between Mr. McLoughlin and yourself; you ought by all means to cultivate that gentleman's good will and be as useful to him as in your power. I should be glad to learn the nature and extent of Mr. McLoughlin and his sons business operations.

Notwithstanding the want of capital among the Willamette population you appear to have done good business there during the past year, more especially so as it has been conducted on the principle of prompt payment from which there ought to be no deviation. I was quite surprised by the picturesque and respectable appearance of your city at the Falls, exhibited in a sketch by Mr. Kane, the doctor's mills form a very conspicuous object. I should be glad to learn how they are likely to turn out.

Your furlough came round this season but as you have not availed yourself thereof, lest your absence might be attended with inconvenience to the service, which is exceedingly considerate and laudable, care will be taken that leave of absence or change of rotation will be obtained for you in 1850 should you desire it; it would be well to apprise me next year if you be really determined to go in '50 in order that some other gentleman may be provided to fill your place.

It affords me great satisfaction to learn by letters from Mr. McMellan this spring (conveying very favorable reports of Mrs. McMellan & their family) they have it in view to come out to Canada next year in order to take up their quarters at Point Fortune; indeed I think they would have been out this year had he been able to dispose of his place in the neighborhood of Perth to advantage.

I am full of business, being about taking my departure for Canada, which will account for the brevity of this communication and hoping to have the pleasure of hearing from you next season.

Believe me to be,

My Dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

G. SIMPSON.